

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- Device 500 further defines a first and second terminal end ~~[[512, 514]]~~ 502a, 504a. Preferably, terminal ends ~~[[512, 514]]~~ 502a, 504a are curved to thereby provide a smooth transition from upper and lower walls 502, 504 to end wall 506. While first and second terminal ends ~~[[512, 514]]~~ 502a, 504a are preferably curved, it is envisioned and within the scope of the present disclosure that first and second terminal ends ~~[[512, 514]]~~ 502a, 504a may be flattened, truncated or otherwise defined. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- Turning now to FIG. 19, with sternum "S" divided along incision "C", a first device 100a for capping the exposed end of sternal half "S1" is placed over first sternal half "S1" and a second device 100b for capping the exposed end of sternal half "S2" is placed over second sternal half "S2". In particular, first sternum capping device 100a is placed over first sternal half "S1" such that first sternal half "S1" is received in space 110 (see FIG. 2) through opening ~~[[112]]~~ 116 (see FIG. 2). Likewise, second sternal capping device 100b is placed over second sternal half "S2" such that second sternal half "S2" is received in space 110 (see FIG. 2) through opening ~~[[112]]~~ 116 (see FIG. 2). Each sternal capping device 100a, 100b acts to stanch the flow of blood effusing from sternal halves "S1","S2". --